

FAIRY TAIL

51

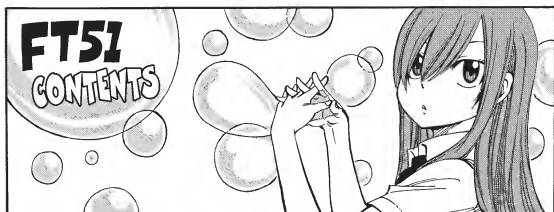


FAIRY TAIL

51



HIRO MASHIMA



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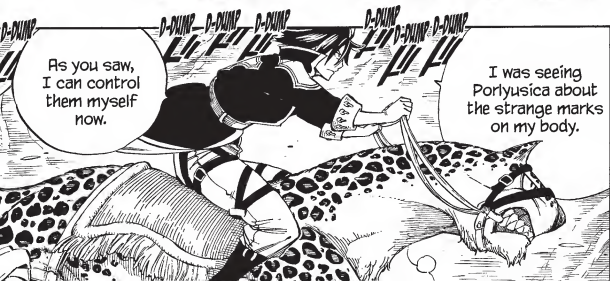
FAIRY TAIL

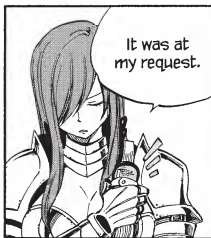
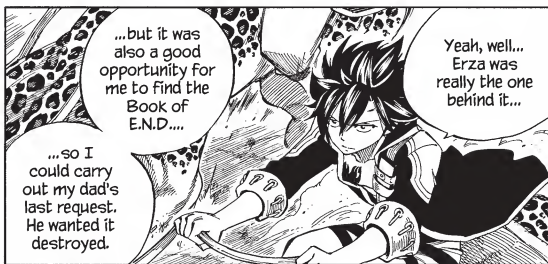
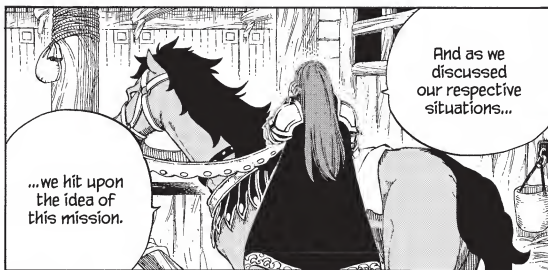
フェアリーテイル

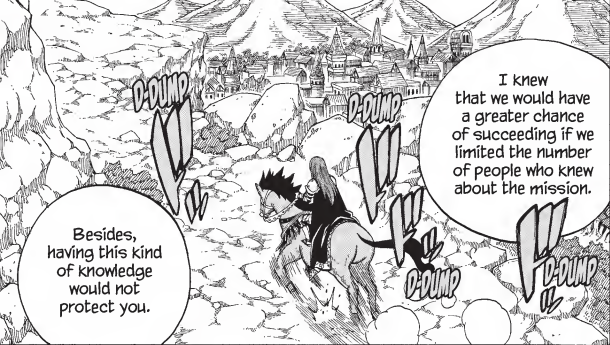
Chapter 430: Operation Purify











I knew that we would have a greater chance of succeeding if we limited the number of people who knew about the mission.

Besides, having this kind of knowledge would not protect you.



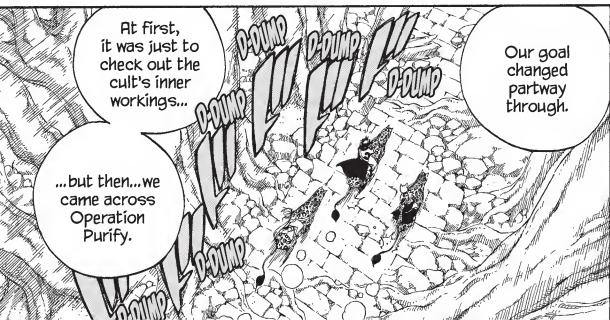
I did not foresee the extended length of this mission.

I regret what Juvia must have gone through.



But still...

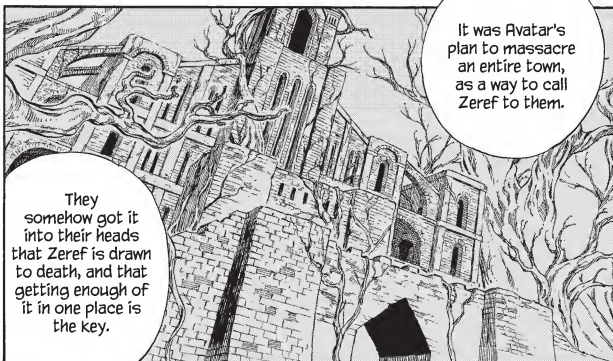
So it was for Juvia's sake, too...



At first, it was just to check out the cult's inner workings...

...but then...we came across Operation Purify.

Our goal changed partway through.

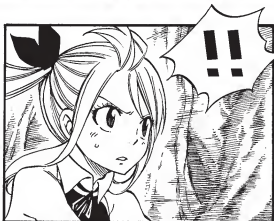


It was Avatar's plan to massacre an entire town, as a way to call Zeref to them.

They somehow got it into their heads that Zeref is drawn to death, and that getting enough of it in one place is the key.



So we gotta stop them, no matter what it takes!



That wasn't possible.

You and Erza coulda done that easy!

You shoulda just crushed the lot of 'em!

D-DUMP

That group
I infiltrated
was just one
branch.

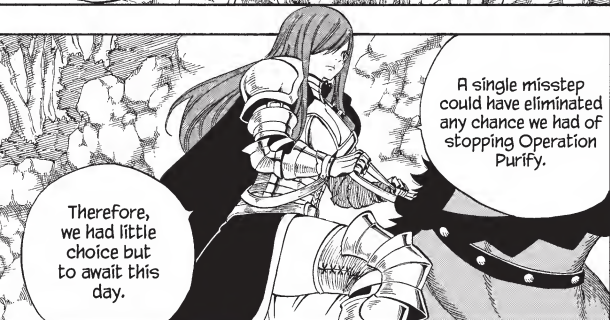
D-DUMP

Avatar turned
out to be a
much bigger
organization
than we ever
predicted.

Not even
they know
where the cult's
headquarters
or the other
branches
are!

D-DUMP

D-DUMP



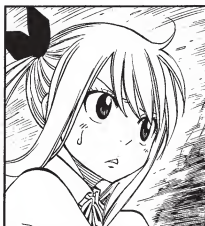
Therefore,
we had little
choice but
to await this
day.

A single misstep
could have eliminated
any chance we had of
stopping Operation
Purify.



We'll crush
it all—
along with
Operation
Purify while
we're at it!

Yeah, it's
our best bet,
since all the
branches will
be meeting
together.



I'm sorry about what I said. I was a real jerk while I was pretending to be one of them.



I still think of you guys as my friends.

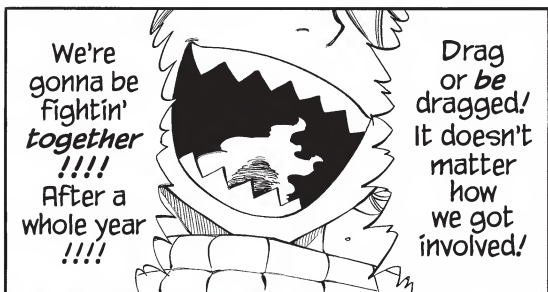
T-There's a reason for that!

Still...it was hard to take you seriously in that maid outfit.



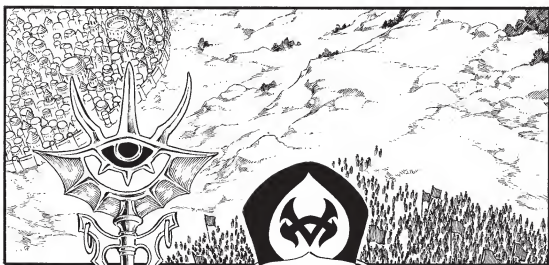
No worries. Sorry for slapping you.

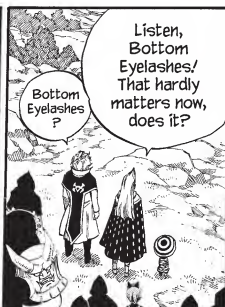


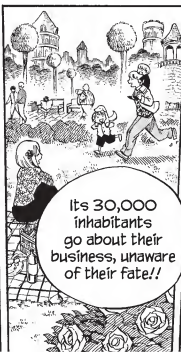




**We're
all fired
up!!!!**

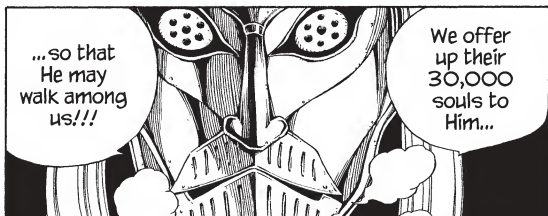






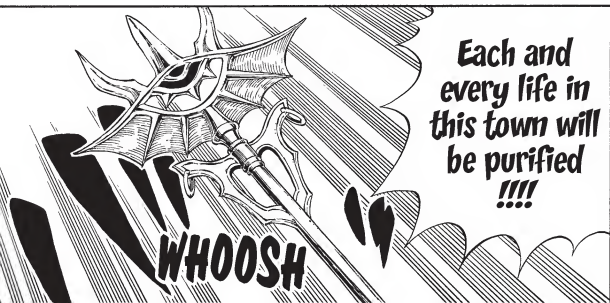


**The Black
Wizard
Zeref!!!!**



...so that
He may
walk among
us!!!

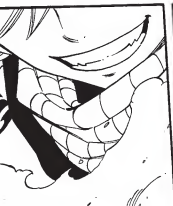
We offer
up their
30,000
souls to
Him...



**Each and
every life in
this town will
be purified
!!!!**

WHOOSH



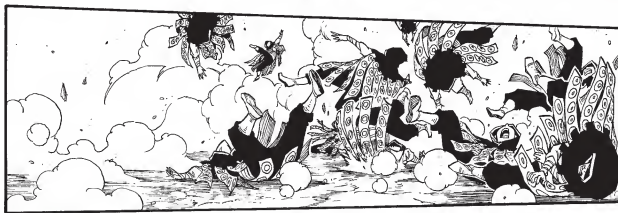




BOOM

**I ain't
gonna let
you take
one step
further!!**

**Gimme
all you
got!!!**



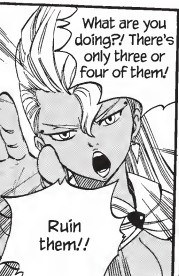
Want to
find out
after this
is over?



Upped your
game any?
I have.



Gray...!!!!
You...



What are you
doing?! There's
only three or
four of them!

Ruin
them!!



I did,
too...

**STAR
DRESS,
TAURUS!!!**

She'll
moo them
down!!!!

SHIIING



We're taking
enormous
losses!!

What...?! Did
the Council's
army already...?

Jerome-sama!
The enemy
is behind us,
too!!!!

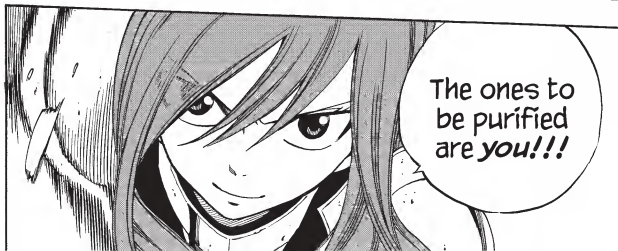
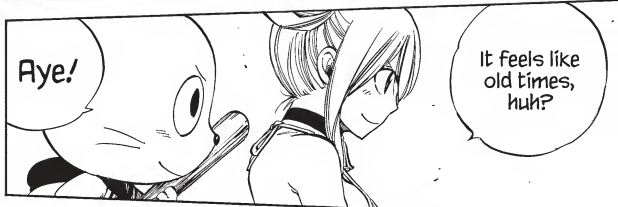
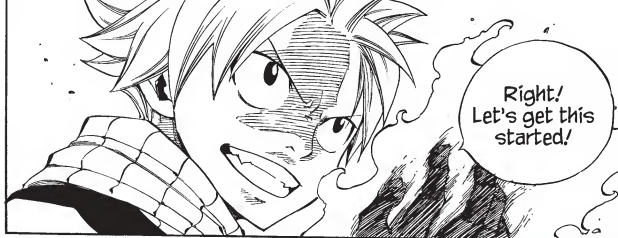


TREMBLE
TREMBLE
TREMBLE

T-The
thing is...



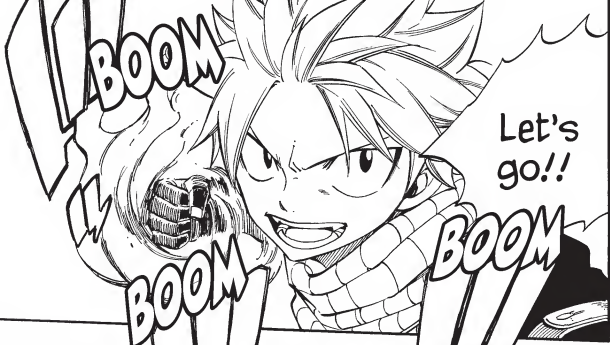
... it's
just one
knight
...



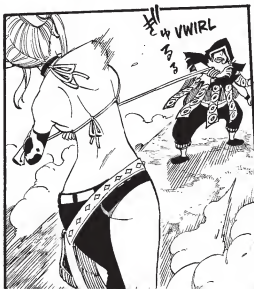
Chapter 431: My Sword

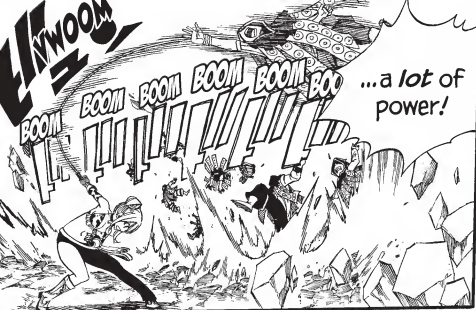








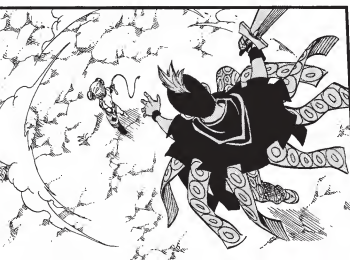




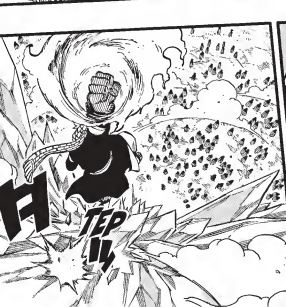
...a lot of power!



In Taurus form, I have...

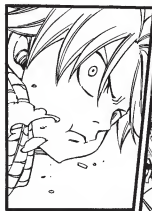


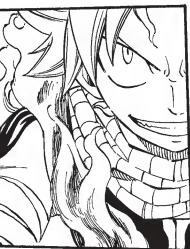
HEH



DOOOOON

Hyaah
!!!!





I leave Gray and his group to you.

I will take care of the enemy encroaching on our rear.



It seems we will have to stop them.



Would you cease the "cheap thesaurus of insults" act, Mary?

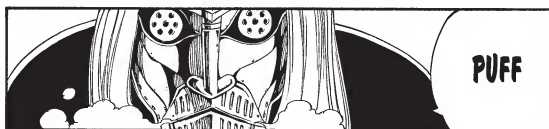
What is this?! It's like they're... monsters, or maybe creatures! Beasts!



I suppose
it's about
time...

...to
show that
gray sewer
rat and his
cronies...

...how
terrifying
black
magic
can be.



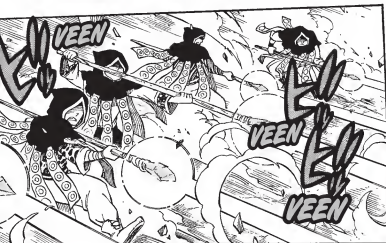
PUFF

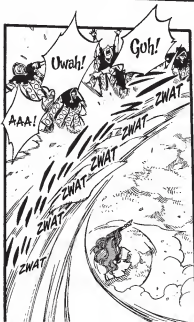


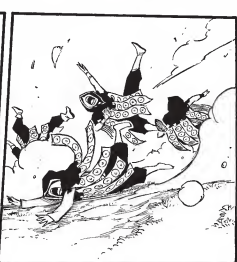
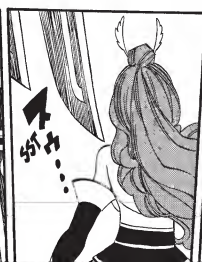
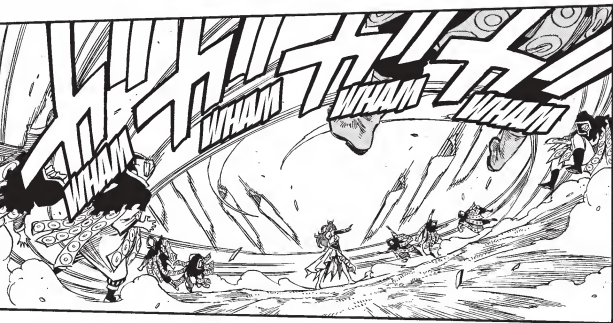
However...

...my Shade
Sword, with its
Forbidden Black
Magic, will cleave
and purify my
enemy!

This knight
must be quite
skilled, to cause
this much chaos
in our ranks...

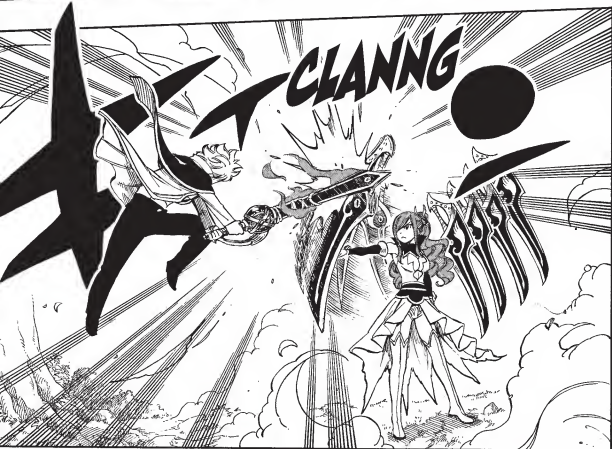
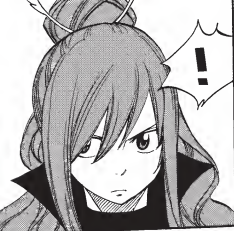


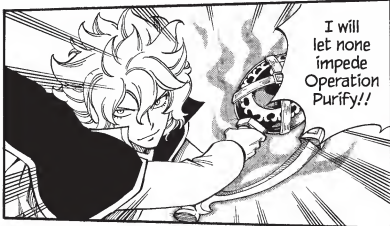






Do you
still wish to
continue
this?





I will
let none
impede
Operation
Purify!!



Jerome is
here with
his Shade
Sword!!

It's
Jerome-
san!!



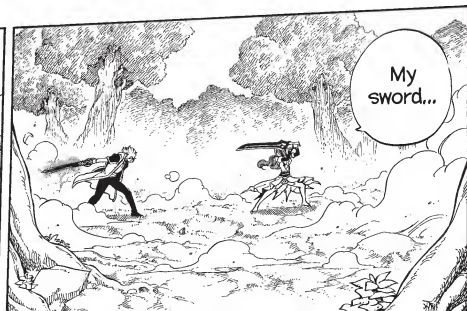
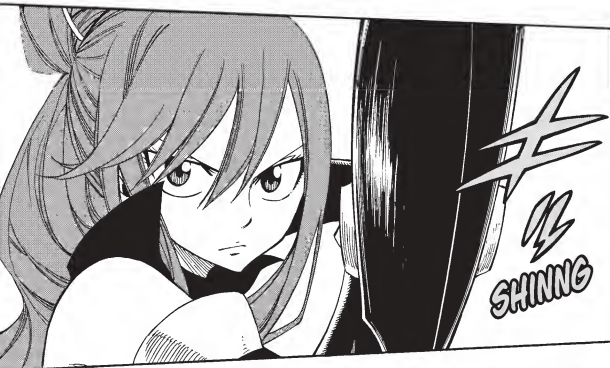
CRUMBLE



UWAA



CLANG





GUH
ZLASH ZLASH

... cuts so
swiftly and
smoothly, it is
undetectable!!

AGK

AA

ASH

AA AGH!!

ZLASH

ZLASH

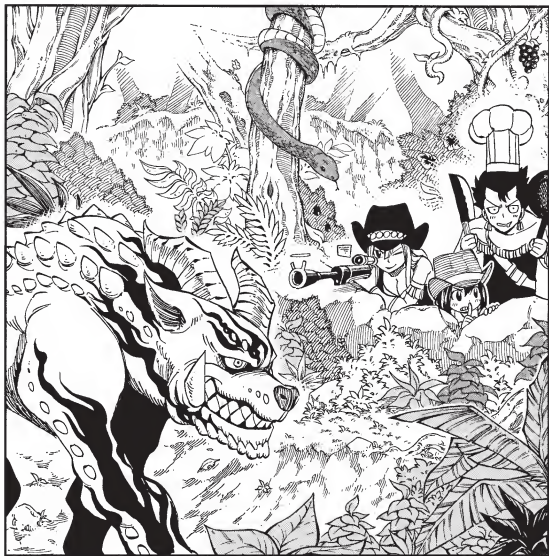
ZLASH

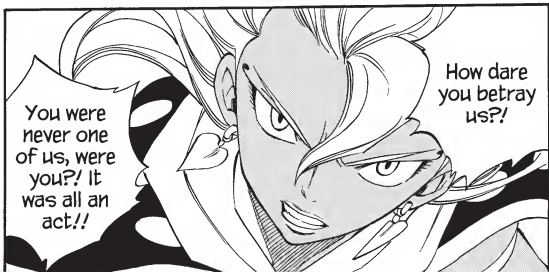
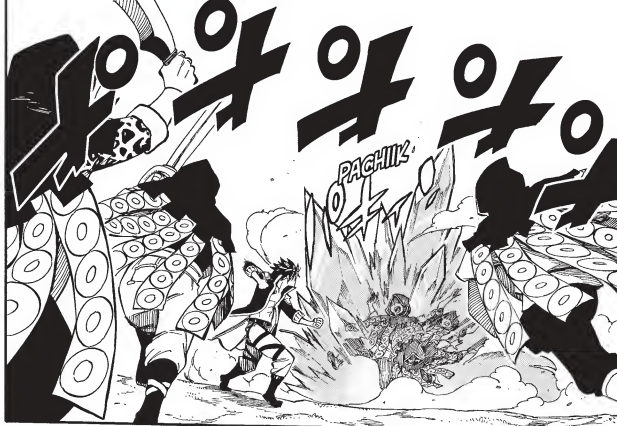


FAIRY TAIL

フェアリーテイル

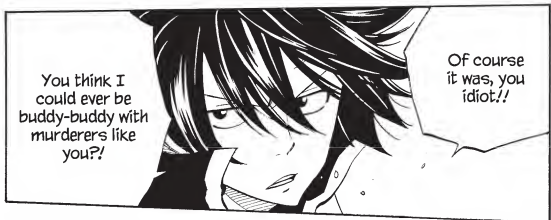
Chapter 432: Briar in Love





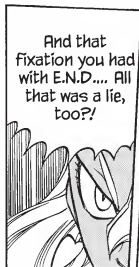


Every-
thing we did
together was
a lie!!!!



You think I
could ever be
buddy-buddy with
murderers like
you?!

Of course
it was, you
idiot!!



And that
fixation you had
with E.N.D.... All
that was a lie,
too?!



This isn't
murder, it's
purification
!!!!

To bring
Zeref to
us!!!!



But not by
helping you
kill people!!



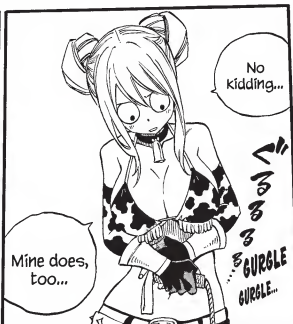
I will get
a hold of
E.N.D. and
destroy
it!!

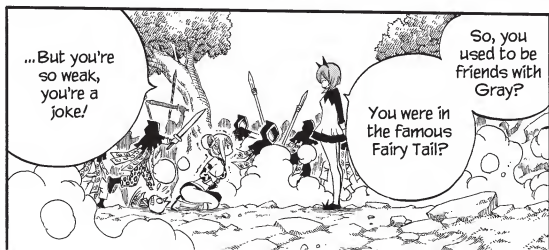
Not all
of it.

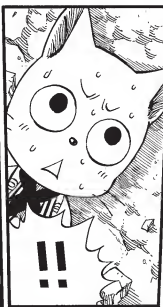
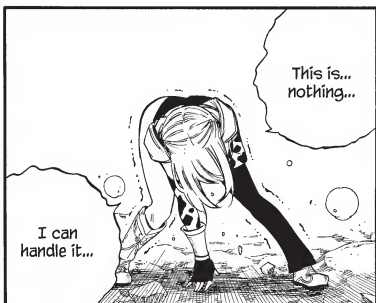
FLIP



If I
stooped that
low, I could
never look my
father in the
eye!!

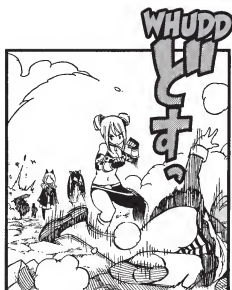


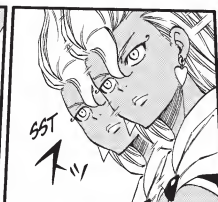
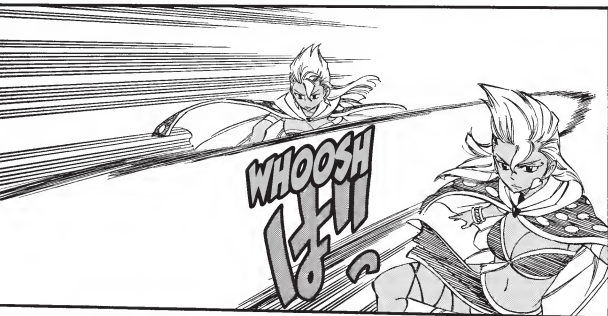












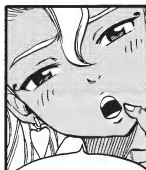


Briar in
Laughter!

Briar in
Fury!!

Briar in
Love!

Briar in
Sorrow!



Because...
I was just a
little bit...
in *love* with
you!

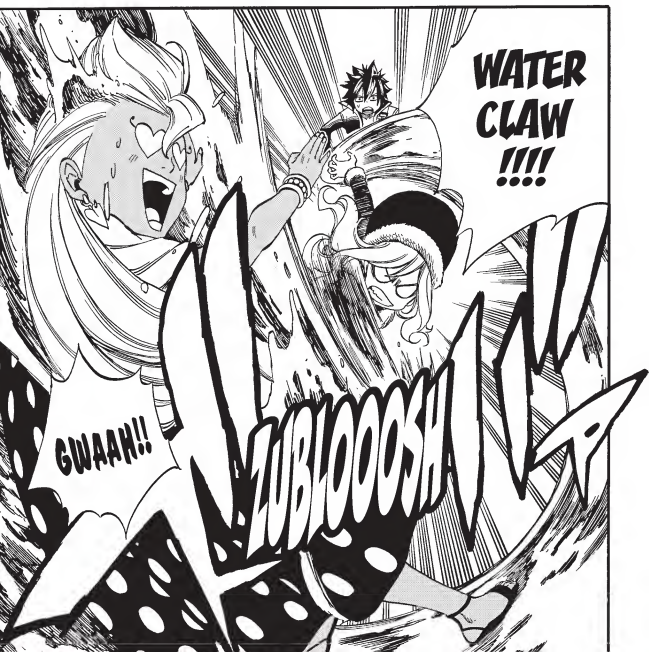
I'm so sad...
that I have to
kill you!



You think you
can take us on with
your puny power?!
Don't make me
laugh!

I'm very mad
at you!!







Let's
just get
this over
with...



Tsk!



How
could
you be so
cruel?!

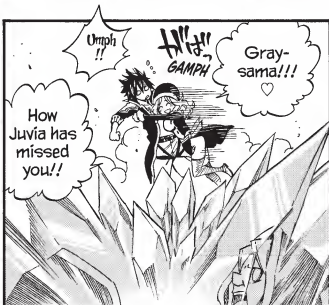
**AH HA
HA HA
HA HA
HA!!**

How dare
you do that
to Briar in
Love?!



PACHIIK

I'm
freezing
you all
!!!!





**TENRYŪ
NO NAMI-
OROSHI***

!!!!

*Sky Dragon's Sea-Raising Gale!

**TENRYŪ
NO NAMI-
OROSHI***

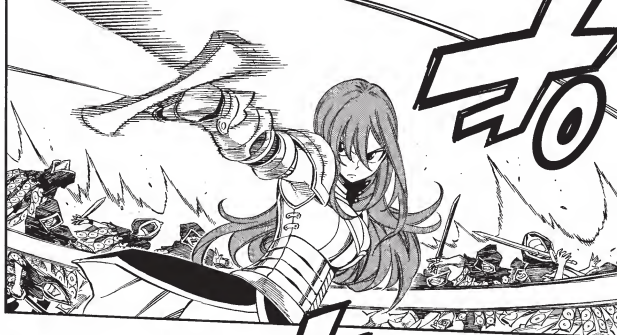
!!!!

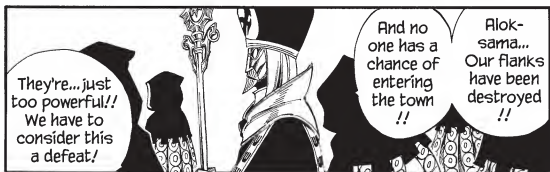
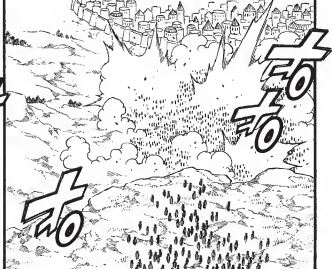
BW OOXOXOXO OHH

*Sky Dragon's Sea-Raising Gale!!!



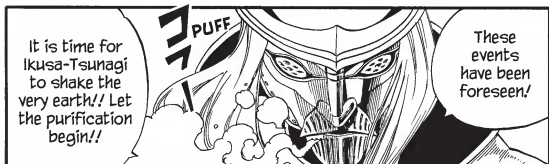
Is that her Dragon Force ?!!





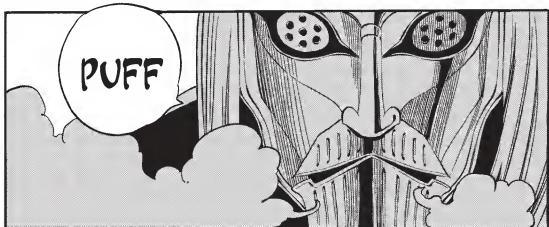
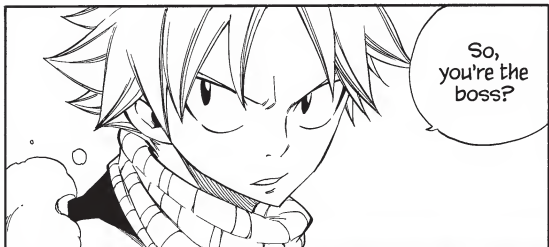


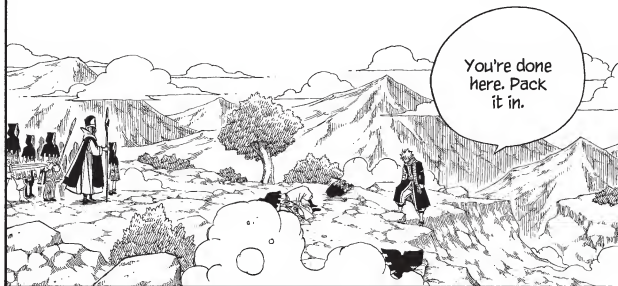
**We're
Fairy Tail
wizards!!**



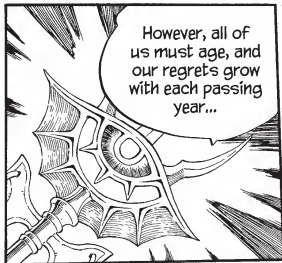
**It is time for
Ikusa-Tsunagi
to shake the
very earth!! Let
the purification
begin!!**

**These
events
have been
foreseen!**

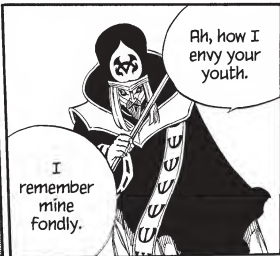




You're done
here. Pack
it in.



However, all of
us must age, and
our regrets grow
with each passing
year...

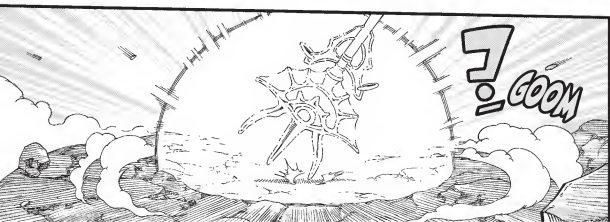
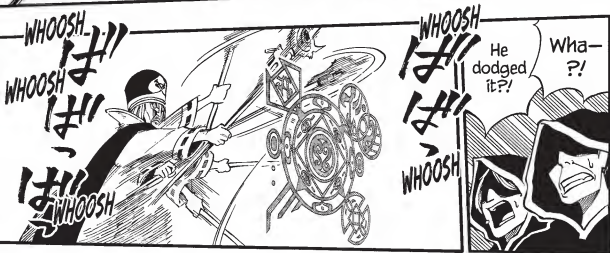


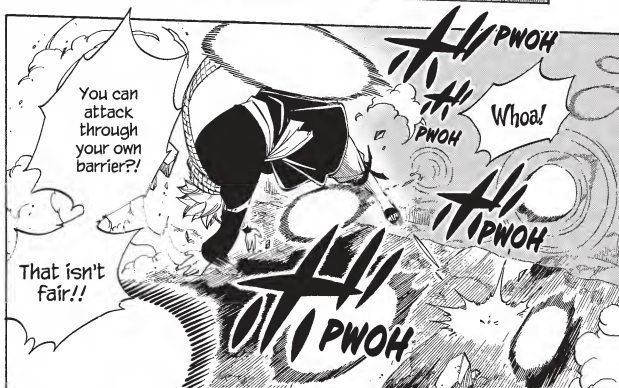
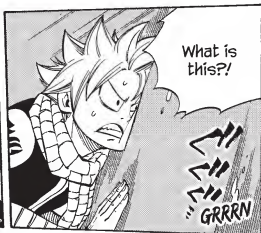
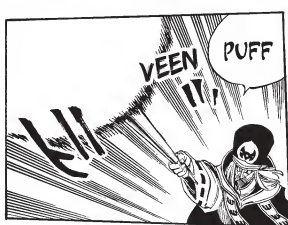
Ah, how I
envy your
youth.

I
remember
mine
fondly.

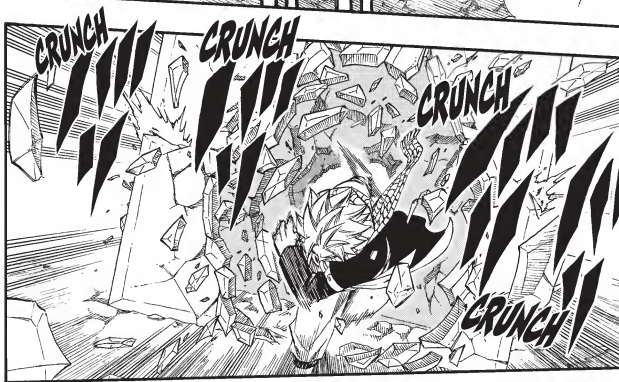
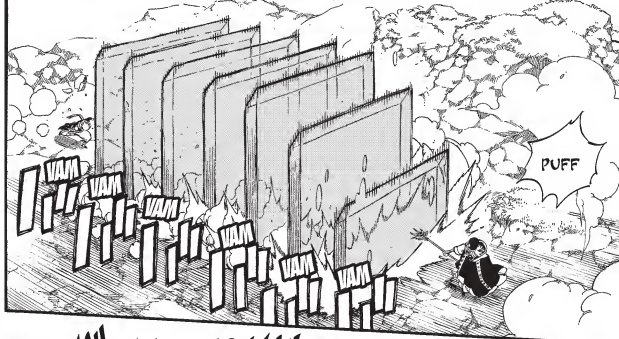


...until we
reach the
point of total
despair!









"Fire Dragon's..."

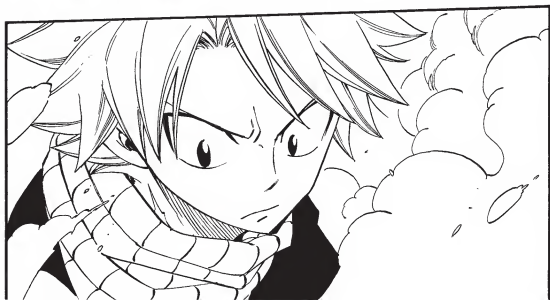
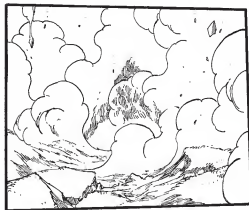




DWOOM

...
TEKKEN*
!!!!

GAAAH!!





I burned
my own face
for the sake
of this day.



?

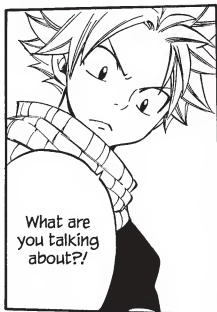


Your
defeat is
now at
hand...



Heh heh
heh...

What's so
funny?

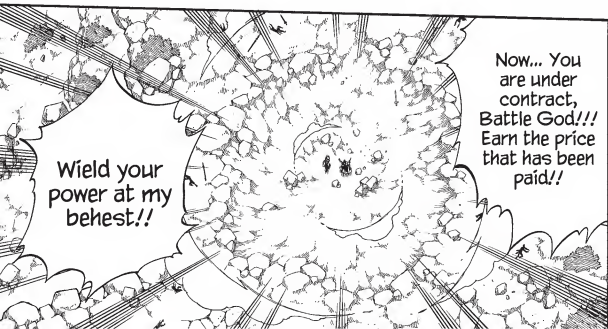


What are
you talking
about?!



That was
the price I
paid!!

And I was
pleased to
do it!!!!



Wield your
power at my
behest!!

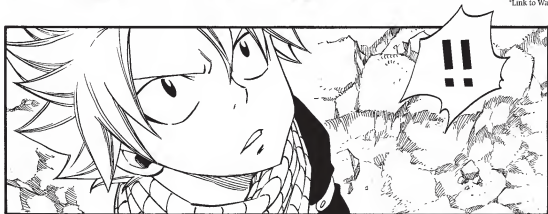
Now... You
are under
contract,
Battle God!!!
Earn the price
that has been
paid!!

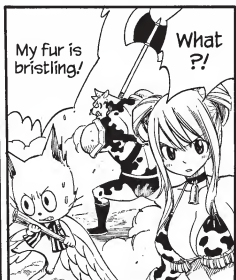
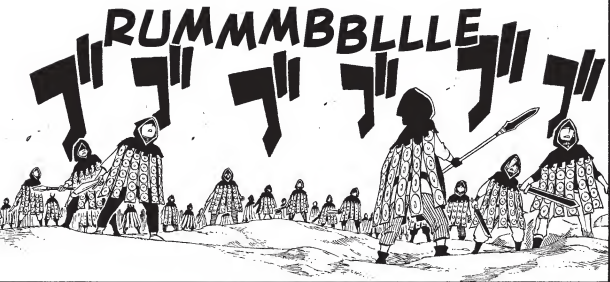


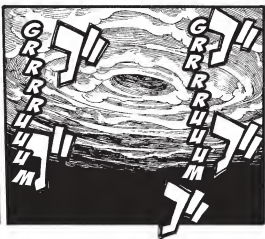
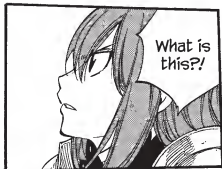
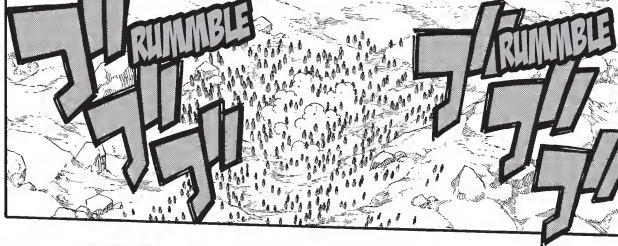
**I SUMMON
IKUSA-
TSUNAGI*
!!!!**



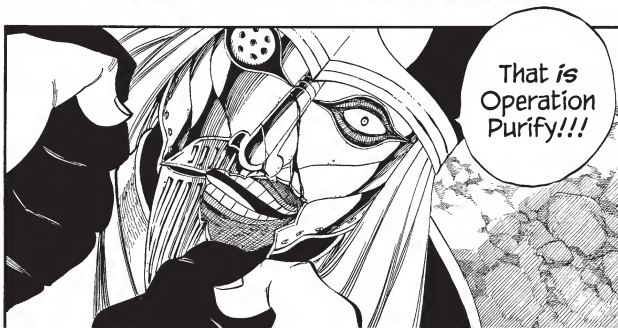
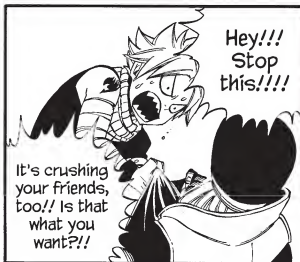
*Link to War

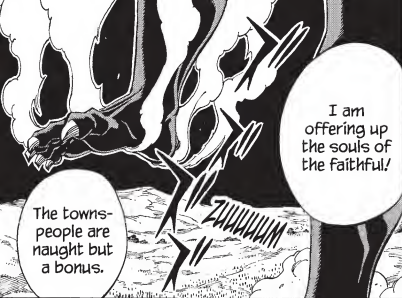












Not until it
steals each
and every
soul in the
vicinity!!!!

ルンムンブルブル

BWA HA
HA HA HA
HA HA HA
HA!!!!

No one
can stop
the Battle
God, Ikusa-
Tsunagi!!!!

ルンムンブルブル

You
wouldn't kill
us, would
you? ...Would
you?

Huh...?
Grandfather,
you wouldn't
...

Zeek!

Run
away!

Waaah!





He'd throw
his friends
away like
trash?

What a
creep...

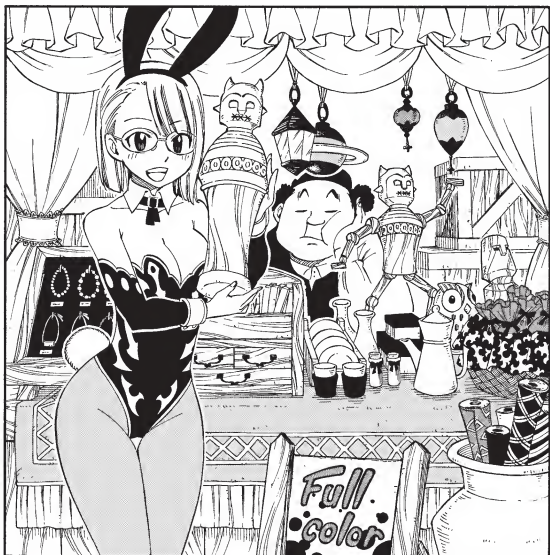


*He's
gonna
pay
for
that,
too
!!!!*

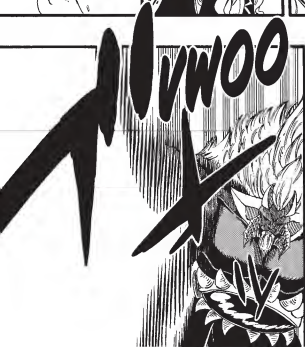
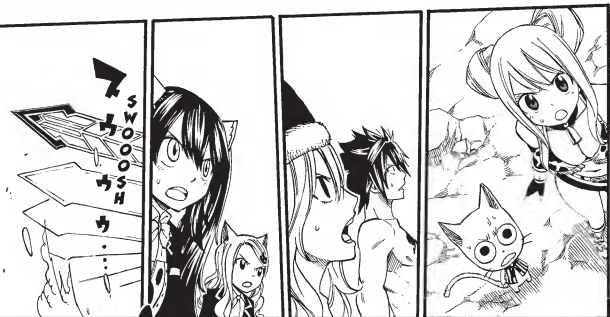
FAIRY TAIL

フェアリーテイル

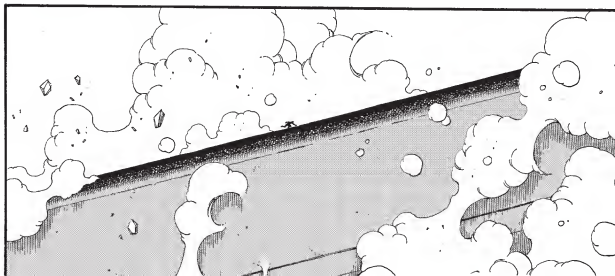
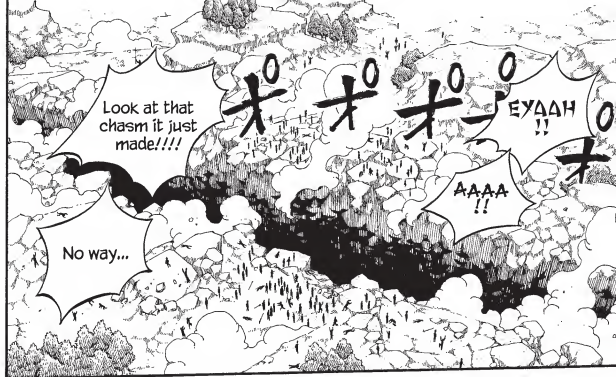
Chapter 434: Hôken

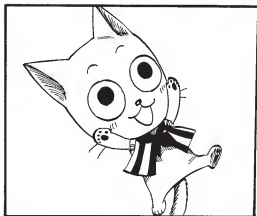
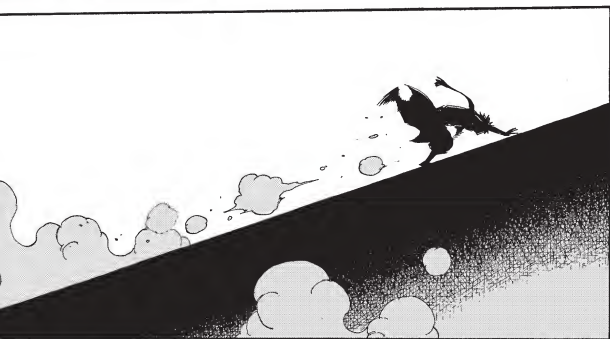
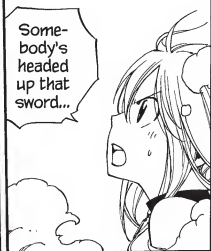














HYAA

TUMP

TUMP

TUMP

TUMP

TUMP

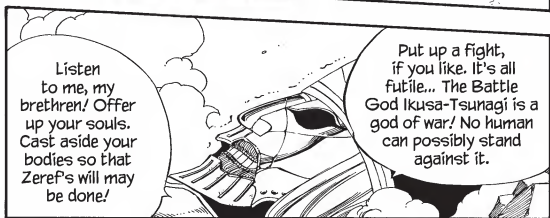
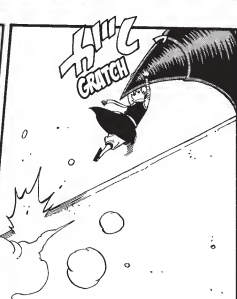
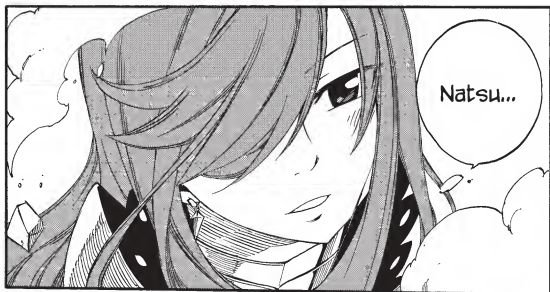
AA

AA

AA

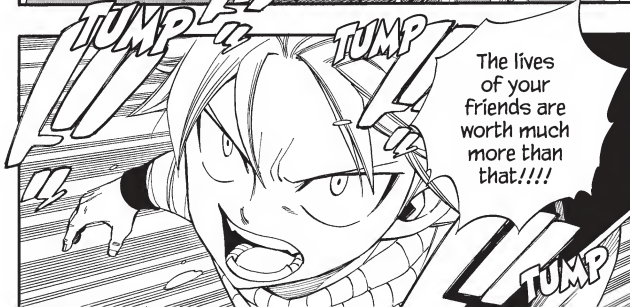
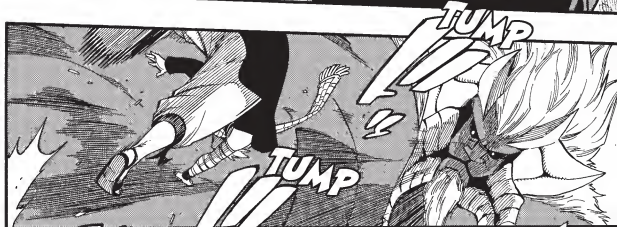
AA

AA!





Cut the
crap!!!



The lives
of your
friends are
worth much
more than
that!!!!



Or maybe
our goals are
different, but
who cares?!



My friends have
the same goals
as me, and we
work toward
them together!



*You're
wrong!*



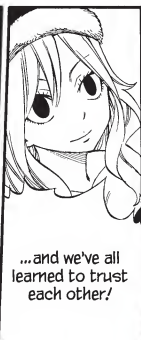
One day, you will
see that friends
are only tools
you use to attain
a goal, nothing
more...



Who cares what
you call it?! What
matters is, they've
saved me more
times than I can
count!!!



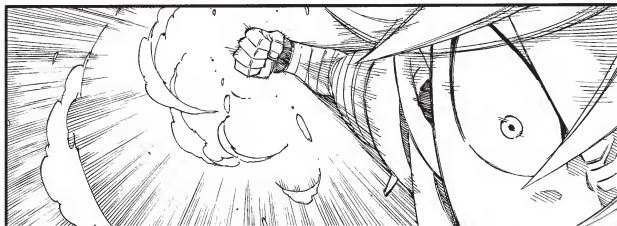
That is
naught but
codepen-
dence.



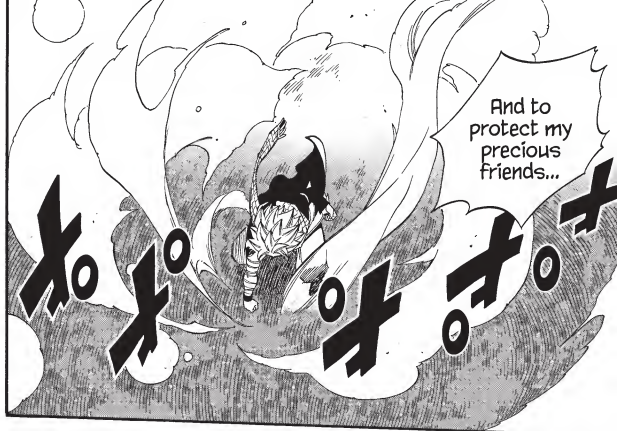
...and we've all
learned to trust
each other!



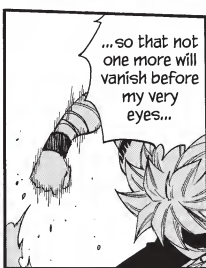
We laugh
together!
We help each
other out...



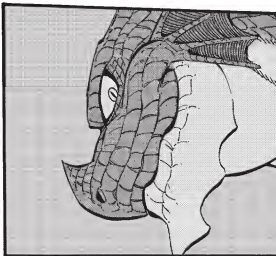




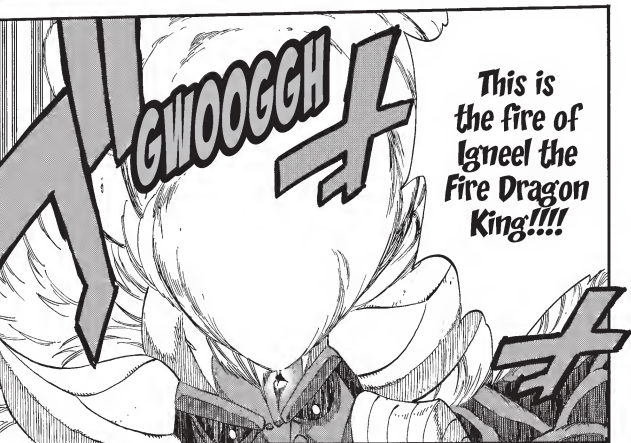
And to
protect my
precious
friends...



...so that not
one more will
vanish before
my very
eyes...



...I'm
gonna
get a lot
stronger
!!!!





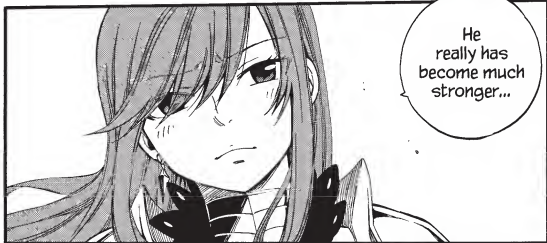
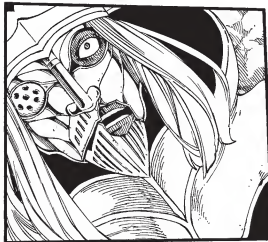
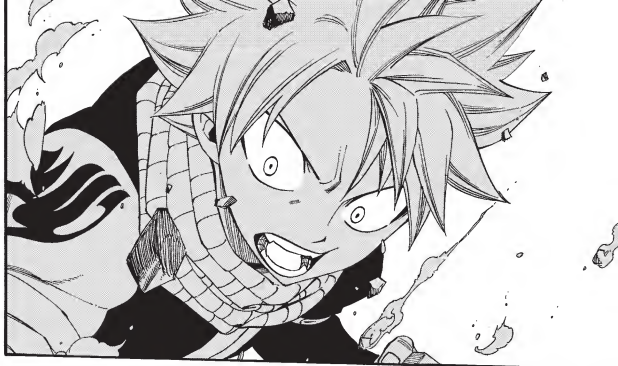
**ENRYÔ-
Ô NO
HÔKEN*
!!!!!!**

GANCH

GANCH

GANCH







Chapter 435: Cry of Victory





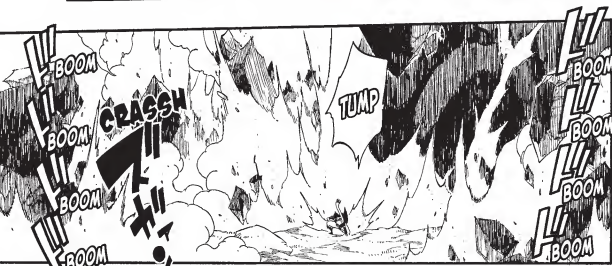
Not possible...

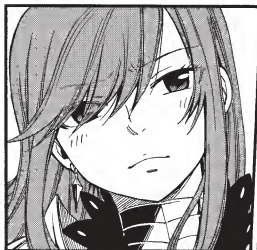
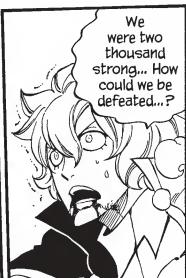
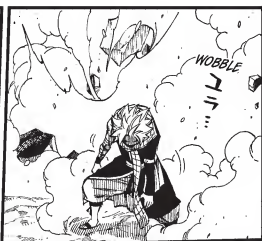
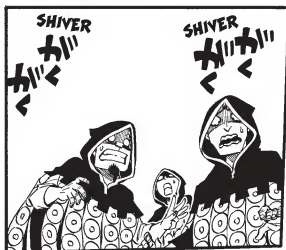
...this cannot be...



The Battle God...

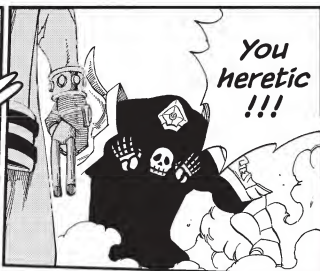
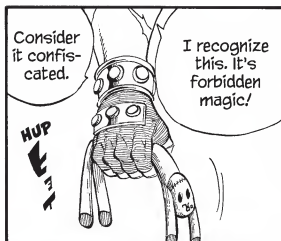
...he destroyed the Battle God that His Holiness summoned!







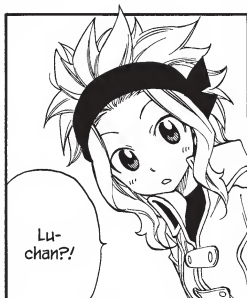


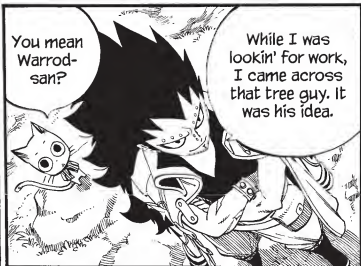
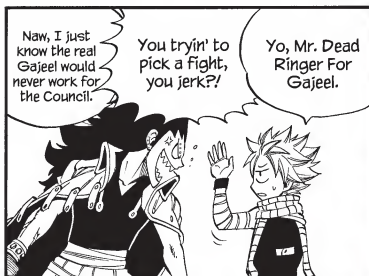


**Arrest
'em
all!!!**

**Don't let
'em get
away!!!!**







By the way,
yer under
arrest! The
charge: I
don't like the
look in yer
eyes!

And that
means I
outrank you
guys!

And you...
for...I dunno!
Lookin' like
ya do!

Eh? I
don't get
this at
all!

And you!
Eatin' too
many fish!

It figures.
Such deli-
ciousness
has to be
a crime.

Juvia's charged
with criminal
drenchin'!

"Drench-
ing?"

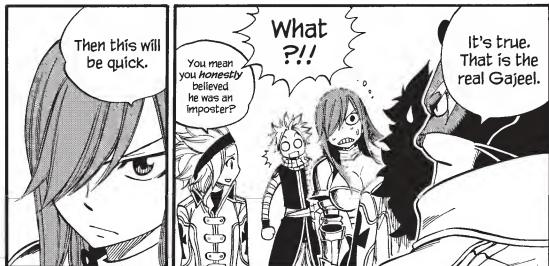
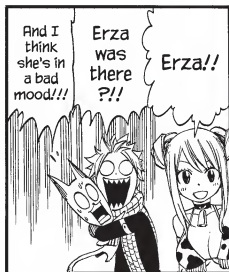
You, too! The
charge: Pervy
get-up!

What
?!

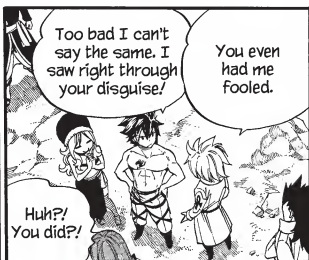
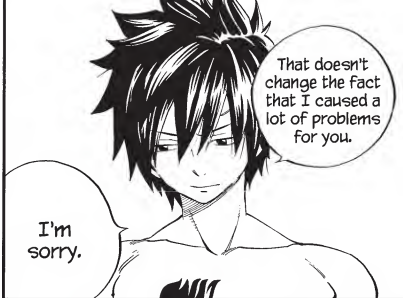
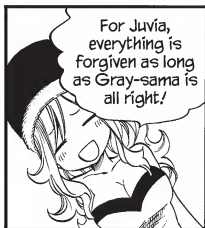
Don't expect
me to go easy
on you!

I don't need
to spell it
out, do I,
Gray?

And
as for
you...









HUMPH!



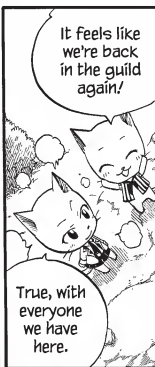
In any case, the town was saved.



I never expected you all to come help us out!



It's been too long since we all got together like this!



It feels like we're back in the guild again!

True, with everyone we have here.



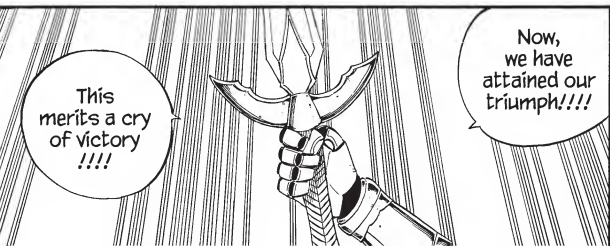
I think you've grown a little, Wendy.

Nope! I haven't changed one bit!



Ain't nobody can stand against us!!!

Juvia never thought she'd be able to fight with all of you again!

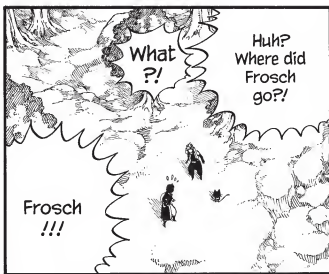


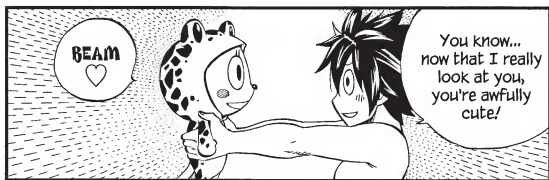
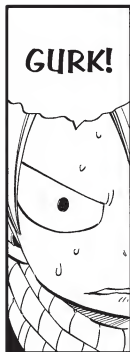
This merits a cry of victory!!!!

Now, we have attained our triumph!!!!

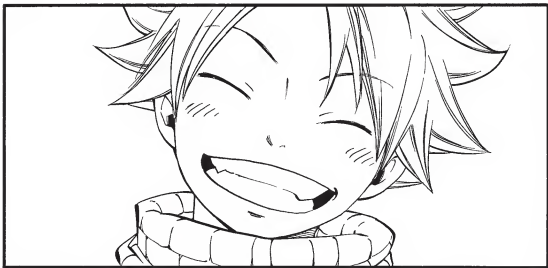
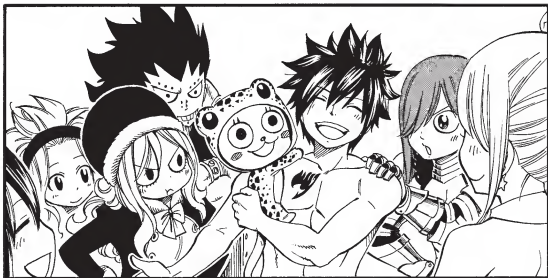










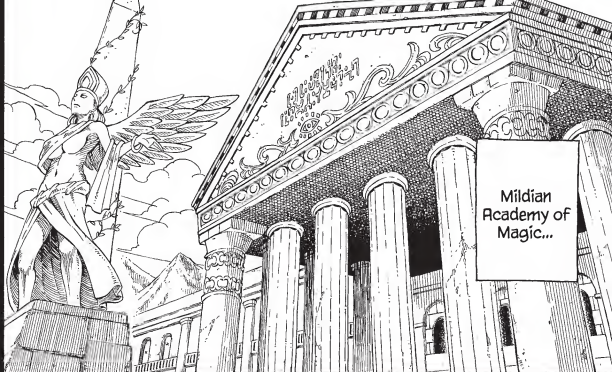


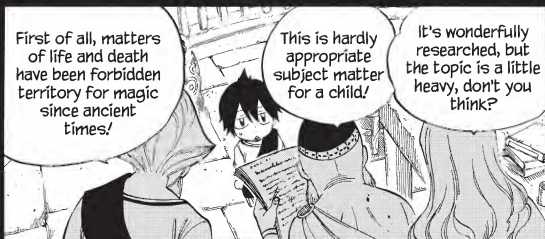
FAIRY TAIL

フェアリーテイル

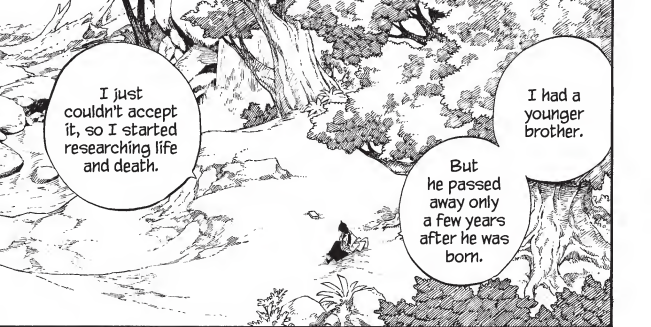
Chapter 436: Memoirs







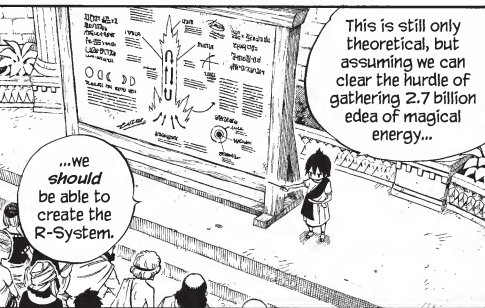




I just couldn't accept it, so I started researching life and death.

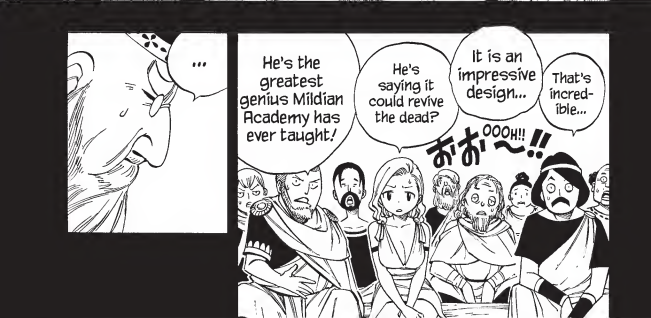
I had a younger brother.

But he passed away only a few years after he was born.



...we *should* be able to create the R-System.

This is still only theoretical, but assuming we can clear the hurdle of gathering 2.7 billion edea of magical energy...



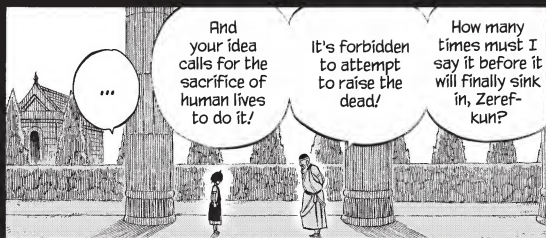
He's the greatest genius Mildian Academy has ever taught!

He's saying it could revive the dead?

It is an impressive design...

That's incredible...

おお〜!!





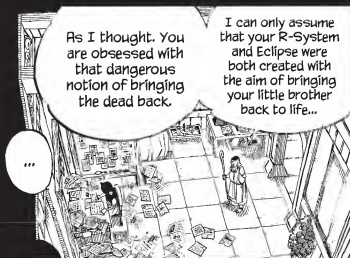
And this one doesn't challenge your ethics, does it?



But I almost have it completed.

I believe I told you to cease your work on that Eclipse idea of yours!

Eclipse is merely a door to the past.



As I thought. You are obsessed with that dangerous notion of bringing the dead back.

I can only assume that your R-System and Eclipse were both created with the aim of bringing your little brother back to life...



Well ...

What purpose could that serve?



We all...had high hopes for you. It's a real shame.



Which is why we on the board have decided to expel you.



He will
never live
again!!!!



You cannot
bring your
brother
back!!



But...

But
I...



That
must
be...

...the
wrath of
the god
Ankh-
selam...



Dean...



Zeref-
kun?

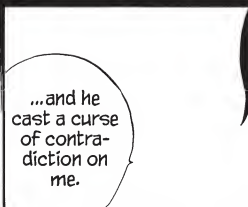




...teachers
and
students
alike...was
dead.



When I
came to,
everyone in
the acad-
emy...



...and he
cast a curse
of contra-
diction on
me.



Perhaps I
did anger
the god
Ankhselam...



Sorry.

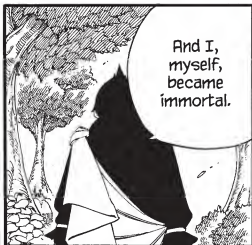
To alleviate the curse, I had to curb my desire to preserve life.



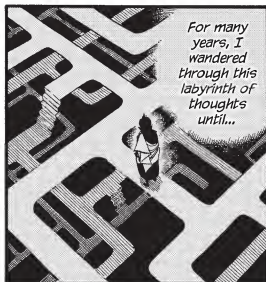
The more I wished to preserve life, the more I stole life from that which was around me.



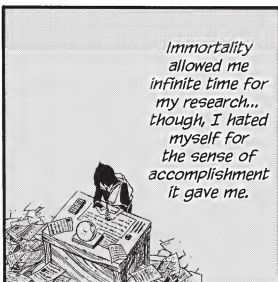
I was overwhelmed with guilt at all the lives I had taken...



And I, myself, became immortal.



For many years, I wandered through this labyrinth of thoughts until...



Immortality allowed me infinite time for my research... though, I hated myself for the sense of accomplishment it gave me.



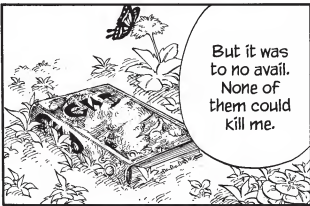
And so,
I decided
to break the
greatest taboo
in magic.

...I began
to wish
for death.



Eventually,
they became
known as the
demons of
the Book of
Zeref.

I would
create life
forms with
the power
to kill even
myself.



But it was
to no avail.
None of
them could
kill me.

...because
they were
made of ether,
which gives
magic its
shape.

At the time,
I called them
Etherious...

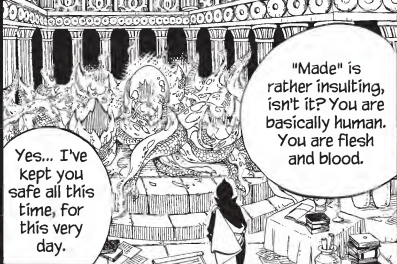


The final
demon I
made was
given a fitting
name. That
was you.

Etherious
Natsu
Dragneel.
E.N.D.



The body
of my
brother.



Yes... I've
kept you
safe all this
time, for
this very
day.

"Made" is
rather insulting,
isn't it? You are
basically human.
You are flesh
and blood.



I have
obtained
both in one
body.

Yes, you are
the Etherious
reincarnation of
my brother, and
the strongest
of them all.



I am Zeref
Dragneel,
your older
brother.

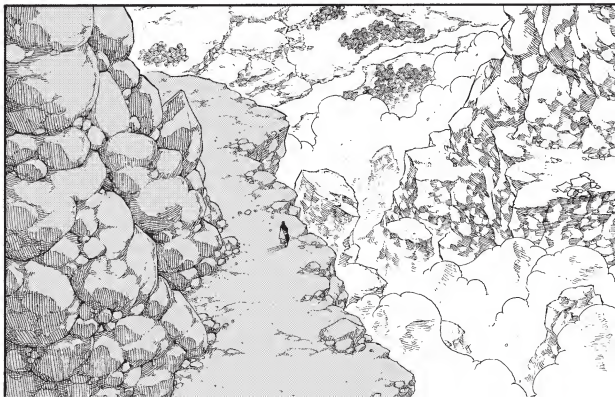
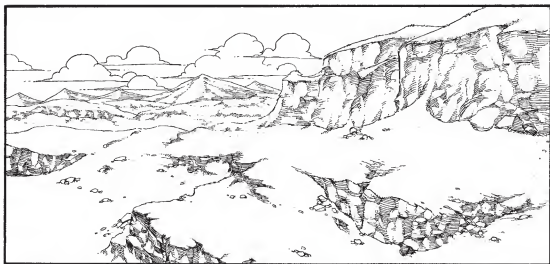
Natsu!

...if you can
call *that*... a
person.

Haha...

I have an
appointment
to meet with
a person
today...

Let us save the
circumstances that
brought you to Igneel,
and my relationship
with Mavis, for our
next chance to
chat.





I didn't think
you would
actually meet
with me.



Is your
arm
healing
well?



So, that's
the form
you're most
comfortable
in?



Achnologia?



What
do you
want...

...Black
Wizard?



If you
applied
yourself,
you could
rule the
world.

You
want to see
destruction.

But you
are limiting
yourself.



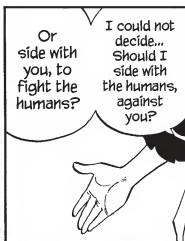
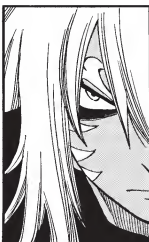
Just a
spectator.

I have
long been
a lost
soul.



You're
pretty much
the same,
right?

You
do not even
try. I find many
mysteries in the
ideology behind
your actions.





How
about
me?

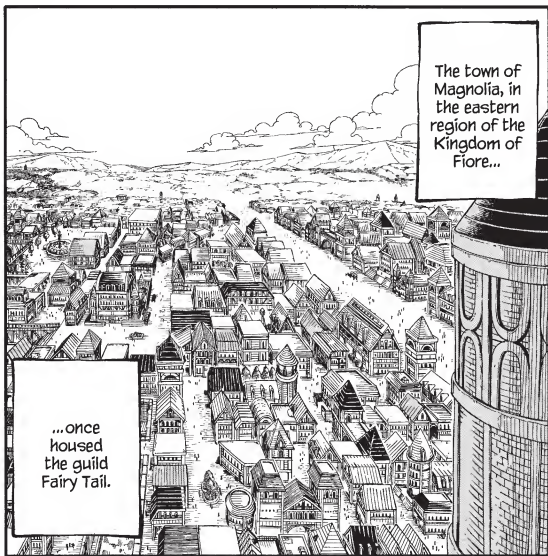


Just
wait. The
final battle
is coming...
between
human,
dragon, and
immortal.

FAIRY TAIL

フェアリーテイル

Chapter 437: Magnolia

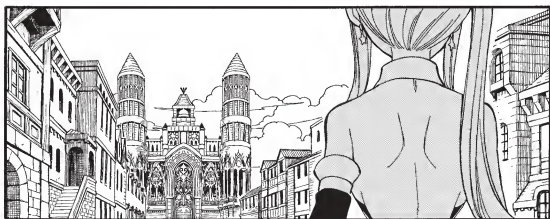




Look, they managed to fix the Kardia Cathedral!

Hey! This sure brings back memories!

We've returned to the town after a year away.

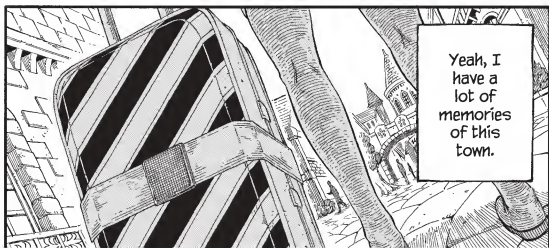
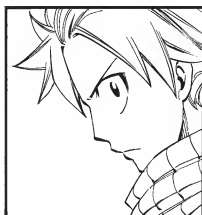


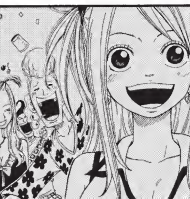
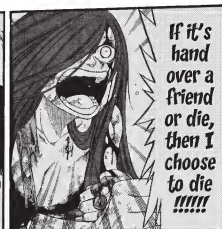
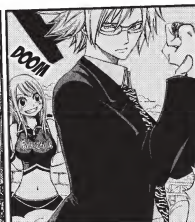
This town is tough!

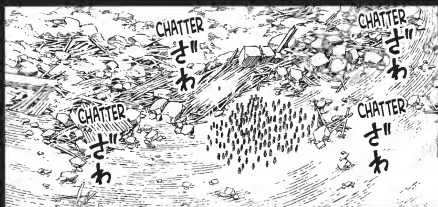
You'd hardly know it was in ruins a year ago.

When we mentioned reviving Fairy Tail, everyone said it was a great idea!









Until it was suddenly disbanded a year ago.



How are we supposed to put food on the table now?!

What's that supposed to mean, Master?!!

We should get a say in this!!

Cut the crap!!



That is all.

And you should each tread your own path, on your own two feet.

Fairy Tail *will* be disbanded.

Right
!!!!

I ain't givin'
up on Fairy
Tail!! Our
guild is still
right here!!

If you
wanna quit,
fine!! But
leave the
guild be!!

Fairy Tail
is the path
I want to
tread!!

Gimme a
reason I can
understand!!

GAHH

GAHH

GAHH

*You are
never
to utter
its name
again
!!!!*

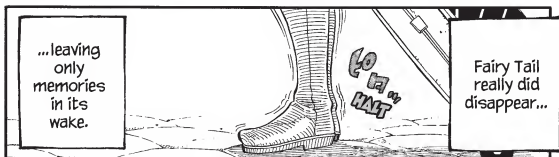
As of this
moment,
Fairy Tail is
disbanded
!!!!





And, little-by-little, all the members began traveling their own paths.

Nobody seems to know what happened, but only moments after he disbanded the guild, the Master vanished.



...leaving only memories in its wake.

Fairy Tail really did disappear...

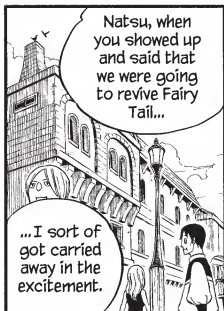
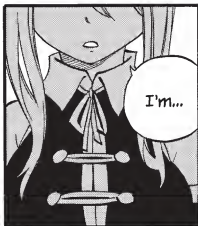


The guild's right up here.



What's wrong, Lucy?



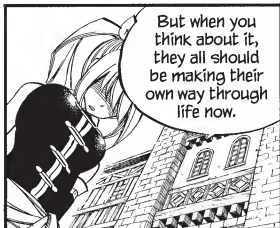




...I told them
to meet up
with us in
Magnolia so
we can revive
Fairy Tail...

There are
people who I
never contacted
for an entire
year, but I went
ahead and sent
them letters
this time.

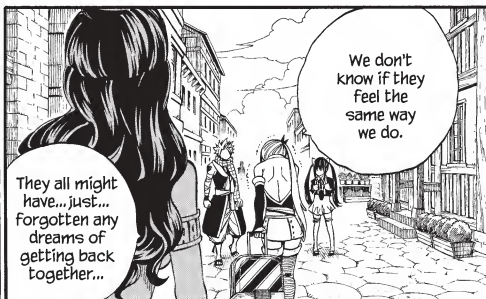
The ones
I had an
address
for...



But when you
think about it,
they all should
be making their
own way through
life now.



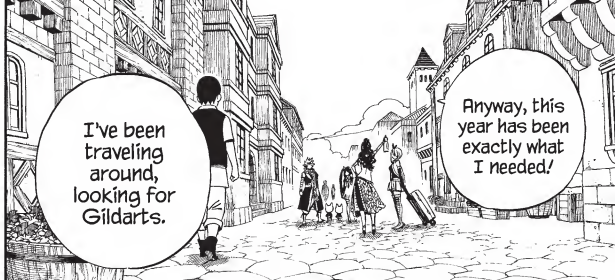
And
I...



They all might
have... just...
forgotten any
dreams of
getting back
together...

We don't
know if they
feel the
same way
we do.





I've been traveling around, looking for Gildarts.

Anyway, this year has been exactly what I needed!



?!

I bet the others have similar stories.



It was just luck that your letter managed to find me.

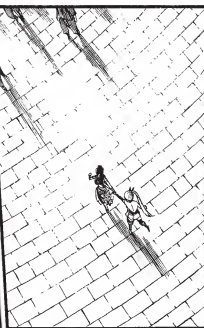
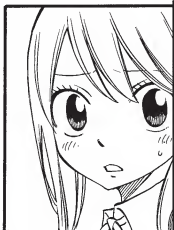


And I didn't have a clue how to make a living otherwise!

Still, it was a good experience!

But for me in particular, I grew up in the guild. It was all I ever knew.

So I didn't understand the sudden order to disband Fairy Tail at all!





Happy!!

Wendy,
Carla, you
gals doing
good?

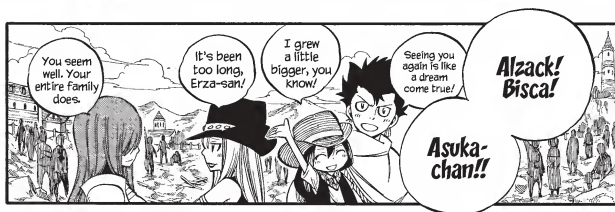
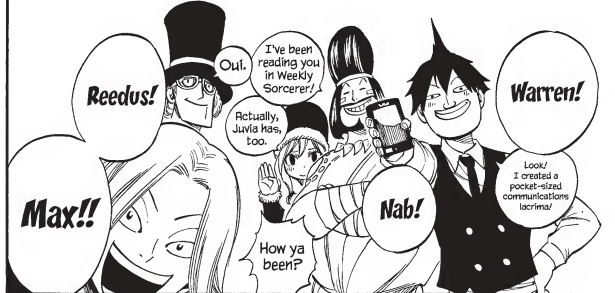
You really
shook things
up in the
capital, huh?

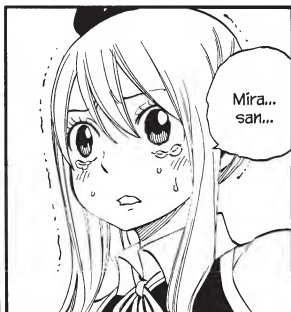
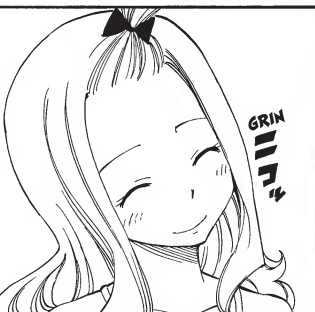
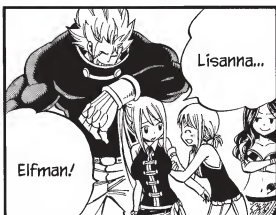
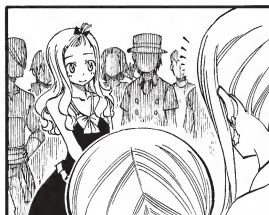
Lucy, I
got your
letter!

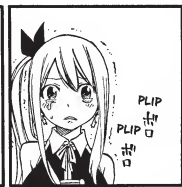
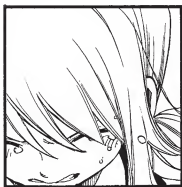
You're
back!!

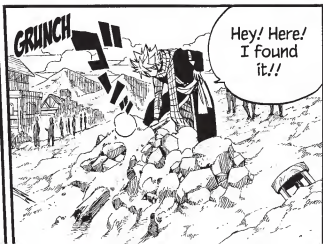
You let
your hair
grow out,
Lucy!

Hey, long
time, no
see!!











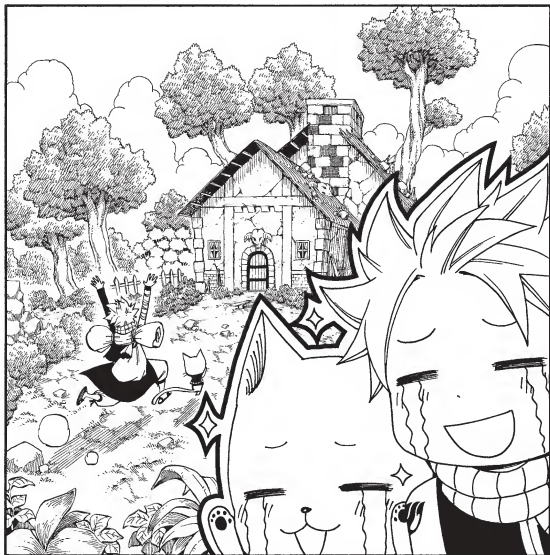
We're
reviving
the guild,
right here
!!!!

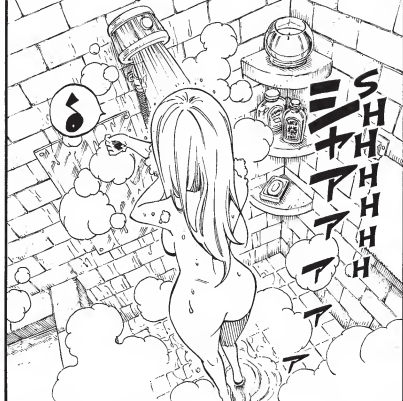
We are
Fairy
Tail!!!!

FAIRY TAIL

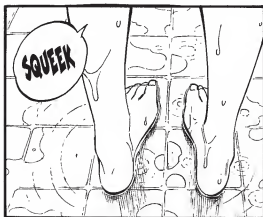
フェアリーテイル

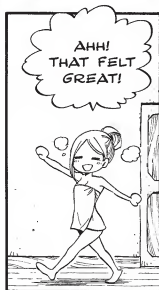
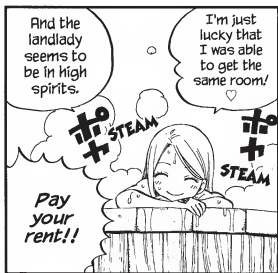
Chapter 438: The Seventh Guild Master





It's been five days since the revival of Fairy Tail...





CRUNCH
CRUNCH

WIDCHA

MUNCH

WUOL

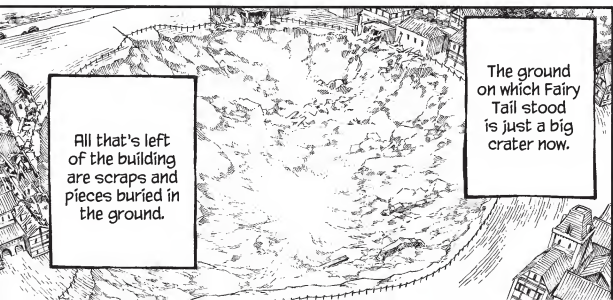
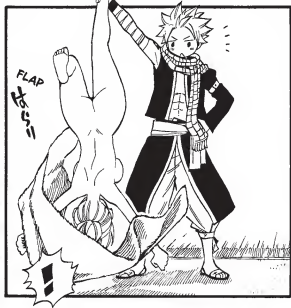
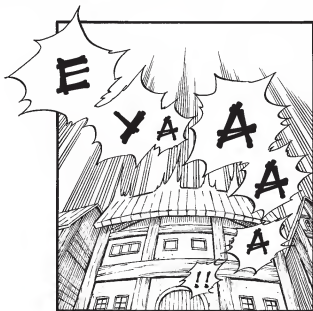
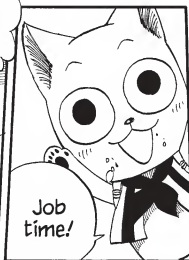
GOBBLE 10

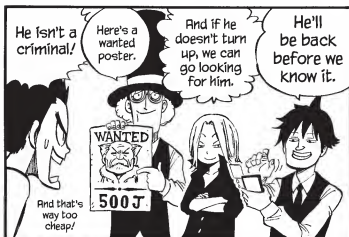
It looks like you still need some training, Lucy.

DANGLE!!

LET ME DOWN !!

You think
that'll hurt
me?

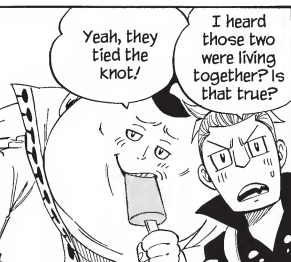




500J = about ¥500 = about \$5



Juvia, could you get me those nails?



Yeah, they tied the knot!

I heard those two were living together? Is that true?



Yes, Gray-sama!

Keep them dry!



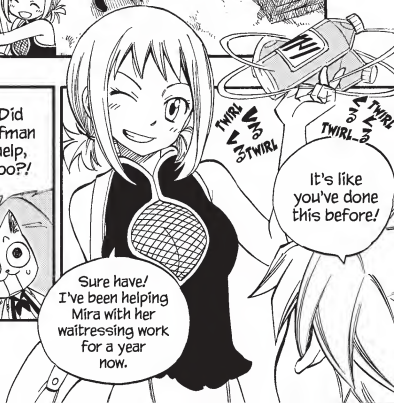
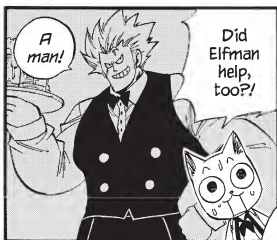
HOW FAR-FETCHED CAN A RUMOR GET ?!!!!

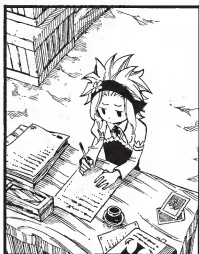
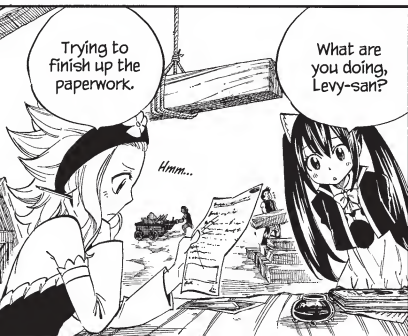
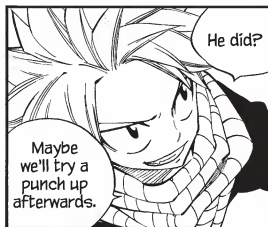
And there's whispers that he's seeing Erza on the side, too...

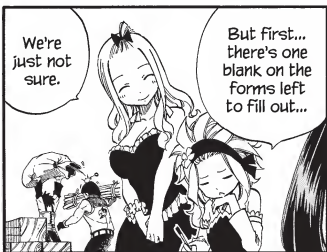
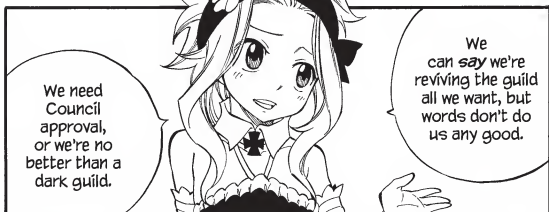
Mistress ?!

According to what I've heard, Lucy is his mistress.

And they have a kid.



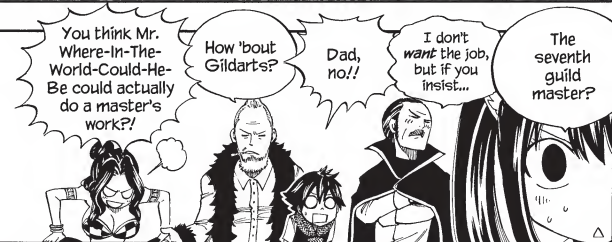






...the
seventh
guild
master.

We're not
sure who
is going to
be...



You think Mr.
Where-In-The-
World-Could-He-
Be could actually
do a master's
work?!

How 'bout
Gildarts?

Dad,
no!!

I don't
want the job,
but if you
insist...

The
seventh
guild
master?



But...the
guild's not
quite the
same as
before.



My
thoughts
exactly.



Whoever it is
will be just a
placeholder
for the sixth
master,
right? Who
cares who
it is?

...who can
keep this
lot in line,
much less
lead them?

Without
the sixth
master...

CWHAM

UMPH !!

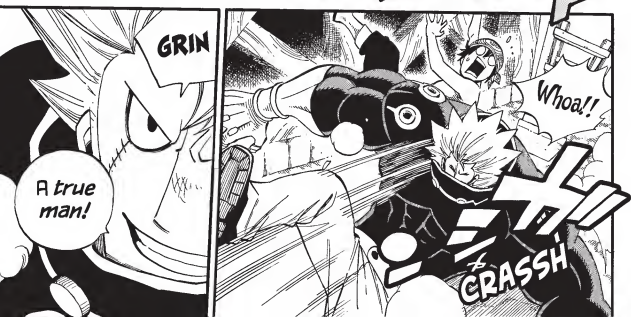
**HYAAH
!!!!**

You *have*
gotten
better!

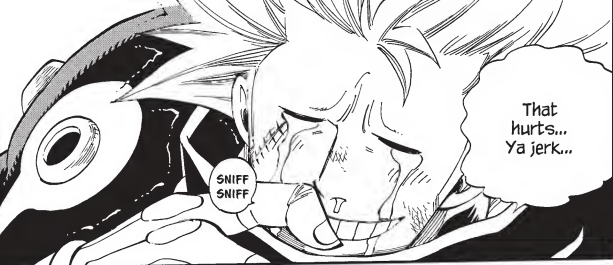
Would ya
look at
that?

TUMBLE
TUMBLE
TUMBLE

TUMBLE

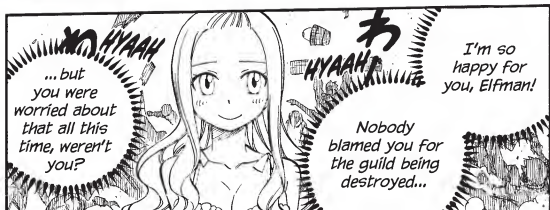






That
hurts...
Ya jerk...

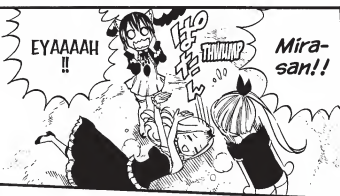
SNIFF
SNIFF



...but
you were
worried about
that all this
time, weren't
you?

I'm so
happy for
you, Elfman!

Nobody
blamed you for
the guild being
destroyed...

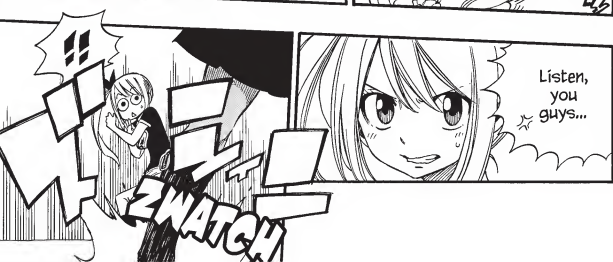


EYAAAAH
!!

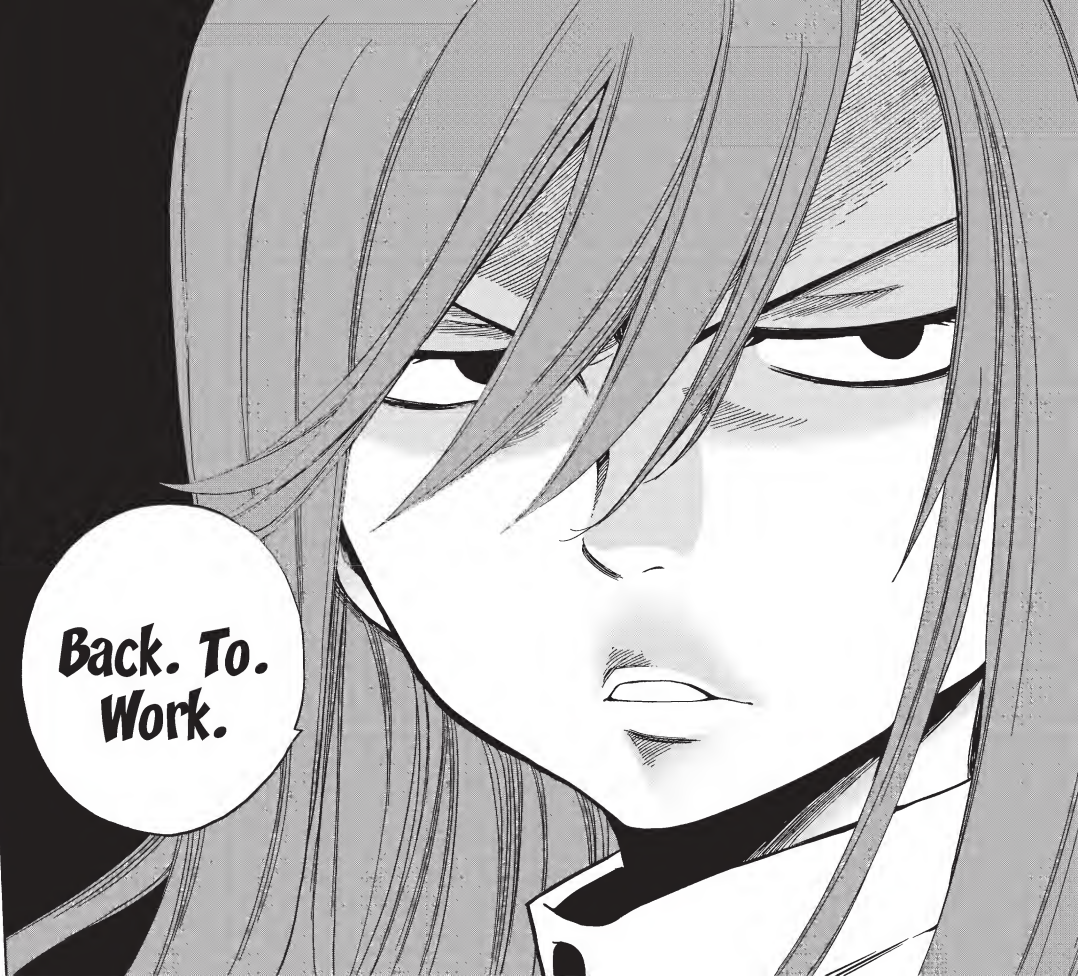
Mira-
san!!



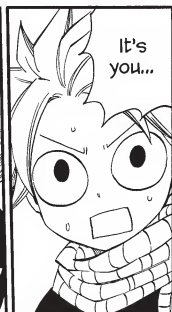
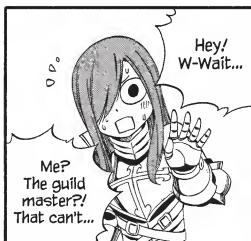
That's why
you've been
training so
hard...



Listen,
you
guys...



**Back. To.
Work.**



A black and white manga-style illustration of Mest Gryder. He is a young man with spiky black hair, looking off to the side with a serious, determined expression. He is wearing a dark, sleeveless tunic with a high collar that has a scale-like pattern and a fur trim. A sword is visible at his waist. The background shows a cloudy sky and the top of a building.

You're
the only
ones...

...who
can save
the sixth
master,
Makarov!

**FAIRY TAIL
MEMBER
MEST GRYDER**

TO BE CONTINUED

あとがき

Afterword

Last time we hit the 50 volume mark!! And just as I was celebrating that, Volume 51 was on me before I knew it. With this volume, all the Fairy Tail members are back together again. I probably could have stretched it out some more, but one of the things that makes FT popular is the quick pace of the plot developments. There are a few guild members that haven't appeared yet, but I hope you're all looking out for how they will find their way back into the story. The number of characters suddenly grew so it's become harder to draw, but the raucous crowd is also part of the fun!

Come to think of it, the other day, I went to a meeting that included a symposium of manga artists, and I received the question, "How long does it take to finish a single page of manga?" Well, the basic answer is, "It depends on the page," but I can explain how some pages take time and how others can be finished quickly.

The quick ones are the ones with few panels and few characters. Say there's a page where Natsu blasts out a burst of fire—a single page with a single drawing. I can finish that one pretty quickly. The pages that take time are the pages with lots of panels and a lot of characters. Also, pages with a high amount of detail (like scenes where an entire town is shown) take up a lot of time, too.

In other words, even though the number of characters within Fairy Tail is huge, you can counterbalance that by limiting the number of characters who appear in a panel and in that way, cut down the amount of time it takes. But since there are so many characters, it really does take time to draw them all.



真島ヒロ



FROM HIRO MASHIMA



Around the time the chapters for this volume were being drawn and published, I went through with a crazy plan to draw two chapters at once, for four issues in a row. It was a lot of work, but I was doing what I loved, so I had fun. Also, the readers of **Weekly Shonen Magazine** seemed to like it, so I thought, "I'm glad I did it." Now, with things gradually escalating in these upcoming volumes, what do you think will happen next?

Original Jacket Design: Hisao Ogawa

Translation Notes:

Japanese is a tricky language for most Westerners, and translation is often more art than science. For your edification and reading pleasure, here are notes on some of the places where we could have gone in a different direction with our translation of the work, or where a Japanese cultural reference is used.

Page 14,

Malva

Like most of the towns in the Kingdom of Fiore, Malva is also named after a flower. This one, better known by the English name Mallow, is native to the more tropical regions of Africa, Asia, and Europe. While some are planted as garden flowers, others are thought of as invasive weeds. The color mauve is named after the French word for Malva.



Page 85,

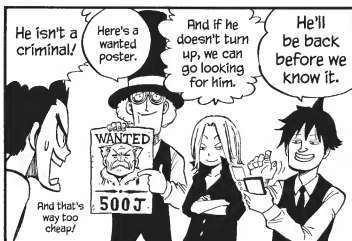
Eighteen Battle Gods of Yakuma

This isn't the first mention of the Eighteen Battle Gods of Yakuma. Mavis notices that Minerva's power comes from the Eighteen Battle Gods of Yakuma during the Grand Magic Games in Volume 37.

Page 132,

Mildian Academy

"Mildian" is a reference to an important village in Hiro Mashima's previous series **Rave Master**, where Mildia was the "Village Carved Out of Time." In **Rave Master**, Mildia is the origin of the Mildian Rave Warriors Games.

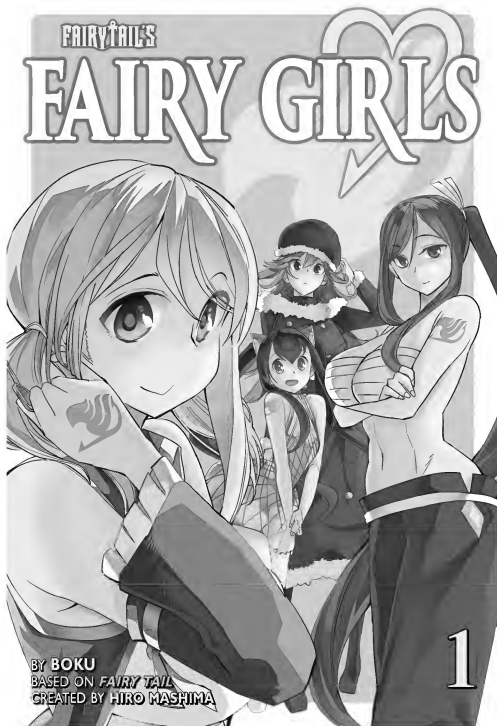


Page 176, Jewels

As we noted all the way back in the translation notes for Volume 1, fantasy stories like to use "intuitive" units of currency for their audience. A fantasy writer in the U.S. might say "100 silver pieces," and make it the equivalent of about \$100 worth of goods. Japanese fantasy does the same thing, but with yen. In *Fairy Tail*, if they say 500 jewels, their audience is supposed to intuit that the price is somewhere around 500 yen. A quick-and-dirty conversion is 100 yen (or in this case, 100 jewels) / \$1 USD, so a reward of 500 jewels would be roughly equivalent to a reward of only five bucks.

Page 178, Passing out bottled drinks

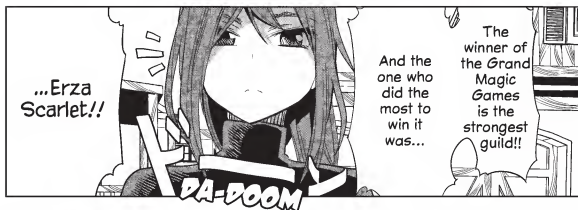
There is a tradition of providing water, iced tea, soda, or other beverages for workers. In previous generations, it was cups of hot tea and crackers during break time. Although this also happens in Western countries, it isn't as much of a social tradition as it is in Japan.

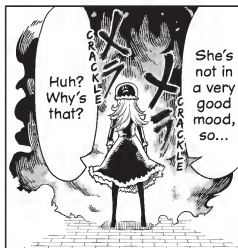


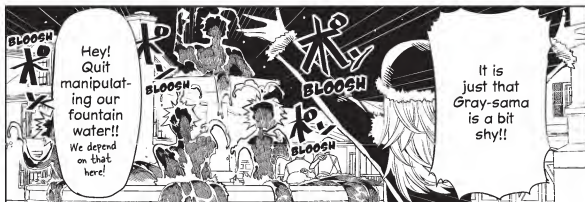
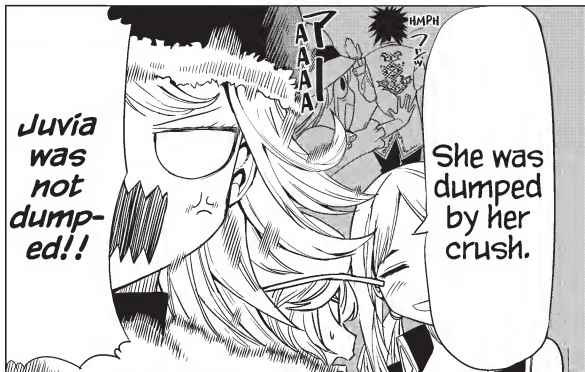
In the kingdom of Fiore, wizards are commonplace, but the powerful women of Fairy Tail are each one of a kind! And after fighting their way to the top at the Grand Magic Games, Lucy, Erza, Wendy, and Juvia deserve a vacation. The wizards slip out of the victory celebration to do some sightseeing as a foursome, but where Fairy Tail goes, trouble's never far behind...

**We're pleased to present you with a preview of *Fairy Girls*:
an all-new series starring the magical ladies of Fairy Tail!
Volume 1 available now!**





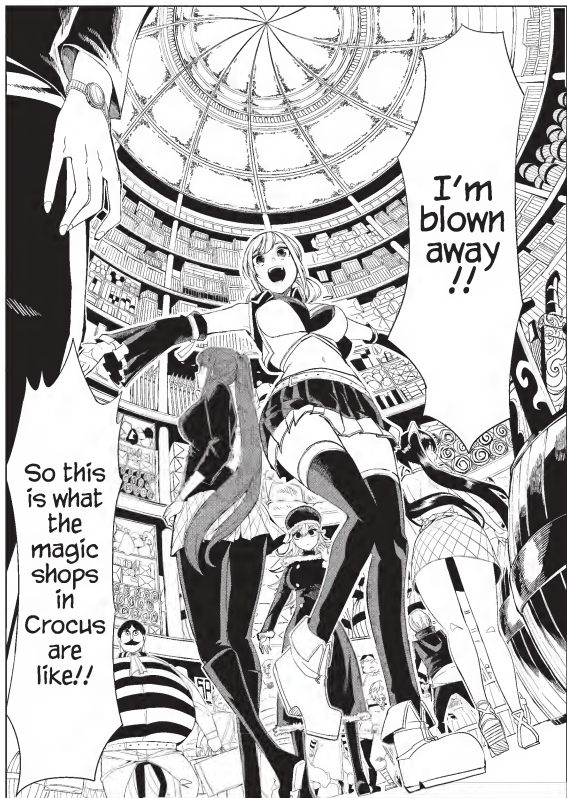










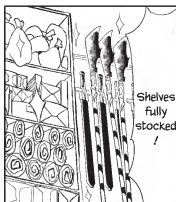


I'm
blown
away
!!

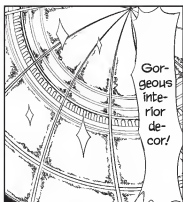
So this
is what
the
magic
shops
in
Crocus
are
like!!



Shop clerks ready to help!



Shelves fully stocked!



Gorgeous interior decor!



Juvia's already picking out her outfits?!

Wait...



Hey!

This place is also linked to a clothing store!

I always wanted to be in a *real* magic shop! ♡

AHHH! ♡
11370 ♡



Lucy!

Juvia! Find anything good?



***Fairy Tail* volume 51**

KODANSHA COMICS Digital Edition

STORY AND ART BY Hiro Mashima

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